1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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Bookings can be made in Bahrain on these air lines either through their Bahrain offices or through any of the various travel bureaux that function in Manama. It is also possible to charter aircraft from Gulf Aviation Ltd. at rates which can be ascertained from the Company or its agents. D.H. Doves, carrying 7 passengers, are used.

Below are given some of the current air fares to various world cities and to the other Persian Gulf towns :—

Bahrain to :	*Fare single* Rs.	*return* Rs.	*Bahrain to* :	*Fare single* Rs.	*return* Rs.
Amsterdam	1547	2475	Doha	65	130
Bombay	680	1224	Karachi	547	985
Brussels	1494	2475	Kuwait	147	265
Cairo	627	1129	London	1547	2475
Colombo	907	1633	New York*	3428	5861
Damascus	534	962	Paris	1547	2475
Delhi	707	1273	Rome	1240	2232
Dhahran	30	60	Sharjah	150	280

**Off season return fare New York Rs.5380.*

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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The telecommunication system of the islands is owned and operated by Cable and Wireless Ltd., who maintain an automatic telephone system within Bahrain itself and also a radio-telephone system with other countries.

The following are representative cable rates :—

Telegraph Rates (per word).

Country.	Ordinary (*Full Rate*)	Letter telegram (*Min. charge for 22 words*)	*Each additional word.*
	Rs. As.	Rs. As.	Rs. As.
Australia	2 13	30 15	1 6½
Canada	1 10	17 14	0 13
Egypt (1 and 3 regions)	1 13	19 15	0 14½
Egypt (region 2)	1 14	20 10	0 15
France	1 1	11 11	0 8½
Great Britain	1 1	11 11	0 8½
Holland	1 1	11 11	0 8½
India	0 13	8 15	0 6½
Irak	0 10	6 14	0 5
Italy	1 1	11 11	0 8½
Pakistan	0 12	8 4	0 6
U.S.A. :			
New York City	1 6	15 2	0 11
Alaska	1 14	20 10	0 15
All other places	1 8	16 8	0 12

The following are radio-telephone charges, for three minute calls :—

	Rs. As.
(*a*) Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Eire	40 0
(*b*) France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg	43 15
(*c*) Denmark, Germany and Switzerland	48 1
(*d*) Norway and Sweden	49 15
(*e*) United States of America and Canada	50 0

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considerably, there was not a corresponding increase in revenue owing to the use of cheap low-power Japanese lamps which were bought by the public in place of the more powerful lights which had originally been installed.

In 1352 (1933-34) there was a further increase in revenue: 415 more points were connected and power was used for refrigerators, water-pumps, etc. The Electric Department acquired the sole agency for International General Electric Company's refrigerators which, after experiments with other makes, were found to be the most satisfactory. The increase continued through 1353 (1934-35); revenue from sale of energy amounted to Rs 6,000/- more than during the previous year, but, unfortunately, owing to an experiment which was made by a temporary engineer, there was a loss of over Rs 5,000/- on wiring. A reduction in the price per point resulted in wiring being carried out by the department at an actual loss, and the amount involved was considerable, as the department had undertaken a large amount of wiring work for the Bahrain Petroleum Company in addition to the normal work in Manamah and Muharraq. A large quantity of material was ordered at the same time in expectation of wiring orders which did not materialise.

First Profitable Year. In 1354 (1935-36) the Electric Department made a profit of Rs 4,800/- after covering all charges including depreciation. Sixty new premises were wired, 302 lighting points and 33 fans were installed, and the load increased by 27 kilowatts. The department carried out all the wiring work for the naval base at Jufair and also put in a land telegraph line from the wireless office to the terminus of the subterranean cable on the coast west of Manamah.

In 1355 (1936-37), the seventh year of the undertaking, the net profit was Rs 16,757/-, the load increased by 58 kilowatts, and 91 new premises were wired. A new one-ton ice plant was installed, the existing supply being found insufficient for local requirements, and indications appeared that the public were beginning to use electric power commercially, for example, in carpentry, etc. A three-phase line and underground cable was run from Naim to the new direction-finding station installed by Cable & Wireless Limited, and underground mains replaced the overhead lines in the customs square. During the winter months the generating sets were run continuously, for the first time, in order to encourage the use of power appliances.

Future Prospects. It can be reasonably assumed that during the next two or three years the load will increase. There are still a large number of houses which are not provided with electric light, and all new houses, especially those which are built for letting, are nowadays fitted with electric light. During the last year the two engines have frequently been running at the same time in order to cope with peak loads. This is undesirable and dangerous. It is now proposed to instal a third engine consisting of one 300 BHP Mirrlees set which will obviate any possibility of a breakdown and which will provide for future expansion.

A reduction in the rate charged for heating appliances was made during 1355 (1936-37), but it has not yet been possible to reduce the cost of the unit for lighting or cost of power for other purposes. It may be possible to effect a reduction during the year 1357 (1938-39).

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Telephone System. In 1351 (1932-33) a public telephone was opened in Manamah, and by the end of the first year twelve lines had been connected and two were in course of erection. The telephone exchange was installed in a room above the Police Station, which was both a safe and central position. Two young men from the schools were trained by the State Engineer as operators. The yearly rent for a telephone, with an unlimited number of calls, was Rs 150/-, which was reduced after two years to Rs 125/-, as it was found possible to reduce the rent and still allow a small profit from the undertaking.

In 1353 (1934-35) an extension of the telephone system was run from the exchange to the aerodrome in Muharraq in conjunction with the Imperial Airways Company, which paid for this additional line. In 1354 (1935-36) the exchange was connected to the Bahrain Petroleum Company Limited telephone system by a trunk line, and another line was erected to the naval base at Jufair. In 1355 (1936-37) a new exchange of 25 lines was installed in Manamah, and a day and night service was instituted. At the end of 1355 (1936-37) it was decided to connect the

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Ruler's house at Sakhir with the exchange by means of a line from Manamah through the Bahrain Petroleum Company's exchange. Telephonic communication now exists over a great part of the islands; from the aerodrome in Muharraq it is possible to talk to steamers lying off Sitra, as a submarine cable was laid by the Bahrain Petroleum Company to the Sitra anchorage, or to distant points on the oil field far down at the south end of the island.

At the end of 1355 (1936-37) there were 40 telephone subscribers, and it is expected that during the next year this number will increase to 60. The trunk line to the Bahrain Petroleum Company's Camp was duplicated in order to deal with the increased traffic. The possibility of installing an automatic switchboard (100 lines) is now under consideration. The advantages would be the elimination of operators and the language difficulties and the prevention of listening-in.

SUMMARY OF SEVEN YEARS' WORKING

Year.	*Units Generated.*	*Units Sold.*	*Revenue Rs*	*Connected Load in Kw.*
1349 (1930-31) ...	88,080 ...	47,340 ...	20,750/- ...	102
1350 (1931-32) ...	111,367 ...	65,813 ...	22,486/- ...	46
1351 (1932-33) ...	120,629 ...	79,550 ...	27,463/- ...	23
1352 (1933-34) ...	134,744 ...	83,241 ...	30,987/- ...	9
1353 (1934-35) ...	147,050 ...	100,449 ...	36,797/- ...	16
1354 (1935-36) ...	163,751 ...	116,440 ...	43,828/- ...	27
1355 (1936-37) ...	232,320 ...	151,255 ...	60,108/- ...	58

The revenue figures are shown to the nearest rupee.

AGRICULTURE

Until a few years ago agriculture in Bahrain consisted of cultivating dates and lucerne fairly extensively and growing citrus fruit and a few poor vegetables such as onions, tomatoes, radishes, and melons. In 1930 the Government attempted to encourage agriculture by employing an agricultural expert from Iraq, but owing to lack of funds his services were dispensed with before he could make much progress.

The encouragement of agriculture presents many difficulties. Bahrain Arabs regard all agricultural work as derogatory; I have never met one who worked in a garden or a date grove. All the cultivators are Shia aboriginals or Hasawis imported from the mainland as labourers. This feeling against working on the land, and also the question of land tenure have, I believe, restricted the increase of agriculture during the last century. There is ample evidence to show that in the past a great deal more land was cultivated than is to-day. The people who do work on the land are intensely conservative and view all methods except their own with dislike and suspicion.

Land Tenure. Most of the open, cultivatable land, which is along the coast, is claimed by the Ruling Family, who make no use of it themselves, but prevent the Baharna from extending their existing gardens. In the past, Shaikh Sir Isa was in the habit of issuing papers to various of his relations, gifting to them whole districts of Bahrain. These 'hiba' documents, which were often written on scraps of paper, included large areas described as 'sehat,' containing roads, villages, springs, privately owned property as well as open land. The Shaikhs who acquired 'hibas' enjoyed feudal rights over the territories which were mentioned in their documents, and in the past they were allowed to make what they could out of them by independent taxation of the people living in the villages, by employing forced labour and by using open land as grazing grounds for the animals which they used to own before the days of motor cars. When the 'hiba' system began, long before the introduction of artesian wells, the possibility of increased cultivation was not visualised, but now the holders of 'hibas'